

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 11562

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR CPRS YS EG LE
SUBJECT: NATIONAL CASH REGISTER EMPLOYEE
VICTOR DICK IMPRISONED IN ADEN

REF STATE 268918

1. AM SLIGHTLY PUZZLED ABOUT QUERY CONTAINED LAST
PARA REFTEL. I WAS UNDER IMPRESSION DEPT FULLY
AWARE OF MARWAN'S MOTIVATION IN CONNECTION WITH
TORHAN/KOPP RELEASE. BRIEF RECAPITULATION FOLLOWS:

2. SADAT HAS FOR SOME TIME BEEN SEEKING MODERATE
PDRY BY STRENGTHENING PRESIDENT RUBAYY ALI. MARWAN
HAS UP TO NOW BEEN SADAT'S EMISSARY. AS PART OF THIS
EFFORT, SADAT HAS SEVERAL TIMES URGED THAT USG RESUME
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PDRY. IN AUGUST WE APPRISED
MARWAN OF OUR POSITION ON THIS MATTER AND ALSO NOTED
DIFFICULTY POSED BY CONTINUED IMPRISONMENT WITHOUT
TRIAL OF TWO AMERICAN CITIZENS. MARWAN IMMEDIATELY
CONCLUDED THE RELEASE WOULD BE JUST SOLUTION AND
OBTAINED SADAT'S PERMISSION PUT THIS TO SOUTH
YEMENIS ON ONE OF HIS TRIPS. HE DID SO IN LATE
AUGUST AT WHICH TIME HE APPARENTLY OBTAINED RUBAYY
ALI'S AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO RELEASE TORHAN AND
KOPP, BUT LATTER REPORTEDLY WISHED TO KNOW HOW
THIS SHOULD BE HANDLED. WE SUGGESTED THEY BE
TURNED OVER TO GOE, WHICH COULD THEN TURN THEM OVER TO US. THIS
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WAS DONE. THUS, EGYPTIAN MOTIVATION WAS ESSENTIALLY

TO FACILITATE ITS OBJECTIVE OF OBTAINING EVENTUAL
RESUMPTION OF US-PDRY DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND,
HOPEFULLY, SOME EVENTUAL USG ECONOMIC AID FOR PDRY.

3. I SEE NO REASON WE COULD NOT APPROACH GOE
RE DICK, THOUGH EGYPTIANS MAY SHOW LESS ALACRITY
IN WANTING TO INVOLVE THEMSELVES IN HIS CASE.
IN THIS CONNECTION, SEVERAL POINTS SHOULD BE BORNE
IN MIND: (A) SINCE DICK IS NOT A US CITIZEN, BUT
ONLY AN EMPLOYEE OF US COMPANY, GOE MAY NOT WANT TO
RISK POLITICAL CAPITAL BY MAKING STRONG PITCH, (B)
EGYPTIANS MAY HAVE SOME SUSPICION DICK WAS INVOLVED IN
ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES AND BE RELUCTANT STICK THEIR
NECKS OUT, AND (C) MARWAN'S PERSONAL POSITION SEEMS
TO BE SLIPPING A BIT.

4. A PREFERABLE ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE IF LEBANESE
AMBASSADOR IN CAIRO MADE REQUEST TO SADAT ON BEHALF
OF LEBANESE NATIONAL, TO USE HI GOOD OFFICES WITH
PDRY. HOWEVER, IF DEPT WISHES, I WOULD BE WILLING
TO RAISE THE MATTER WITH MARWAN TO SOUND OUT HIS
REACTION. SHOULD WE DECIDE TO DO SO, I ASSUME
POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE TO USG OF DICK'S RELEASE
WOULD BE MINIMAL, HENCE CASE WOULD HAVE TO BE PRESENTED
PRIMARILY ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS. I WOULD CAUTION
THAT HUMANITARIANISM IS NOT ONE OF MARWAN'S FOREMOST
VIRTUES.
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